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United States Department of State

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May 24, 1995

10 UNCLASSIFIED/SENSITIVE
(With CONFIDENTIAL Attachment)

TO: AF - Mr. Moose

THROUGH: AF - Edward Brynn

FROM: AF/C - Arlene Renden

SUBJECT: Meeting on Your Central Africa Trip with
Senator Paul Simon,
5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 462 Dirksen

AP/C
Returning to you
with thanks
Sellen

Senator Simon has asked that you brief him on your recent trip to Central Africa. Simon, although retiring at the end of his current term, remains engaged in African issues. I have attached a country-by-country checklist of some of the major issues which you covered during the trip. Ambassador Krueger had a brief meeting with Senator Simon on May 17, during the Chief of Mission Conference. Terry McCulley, Kathleen Moody and Janean Mann will accompany you to the meeting

Attachment:

1. Tab 1 - Rwanda
2. Tab 2 - Burundi
3. Tab 3 - Congo

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1.4(B), 1.4(D)

RWANDA

Prime Minister Twagiramungu

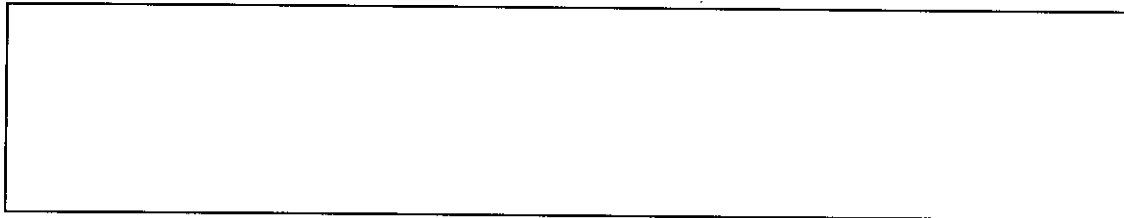
- o PM Twagiramungu agreed in regretting the tragedy at Kibeho IDP camp, the need for Rwanda to take its place in the international community, the importance of getting the justice system to work quickly to clear the 40,000 prisoners now held in overcrowded conditions, and Rwanda's need for secure borders.
- o I called on the Prime Minister to launch an investigation and punish those guilty of excesses. He asked the GOR to improve relations with UNAMIR, to resolve procedural issues preventing implementation of a World Bank loan, and to resolve peacefully the continuing tension among holdouts at Kibeho Camp.
- o I asked that the border with Zaire be opened to permit convoys for the refugees in Goma and Bukavu.

Vice President and Defense Minister Kagame

- o I met April 25 with Vice President Kagame to lay out USG concerns on recent negative trends concerning the Rwanda situation, concerns which had been exacerbated in light of the Kibeho tragedy.
- o Kagame expressed regrets that the operation had ended so badly, although he defended the need for it based on increasing security problems facing Rwanda.

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- o Kagame promised a measured evaluation of the role of UNAMIR and said his government remained committed to justice. He said, however, that progress on justice and the prisons would be slow, even with international support.
- o Kagame made similar pledges to move forward on finalizing the World Bank agreement. Kagame remained tough on the Zaire camps, especially on the border closure issue and the need to separate the ex-government's forces from the refugee populations.

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RWANDA

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President Bizimungu

- o I reaffirmed the U.S. and international community's sense of obligation to help Rwanda cope with the consequences of last year's genocide, combined with a sense of commitment to assist Rwandans re-build their country. He expressed concern, however, that the sense of "common vision" which the donor community and the GOR had shared at the UNDP roundtable in Geneva had broken down.
- o I noted that the tragic events in Kibeho threatened the GOR's most important assets: its credibility and sympathy within the international community. I pressed Bizimungu to resolve "fairly and humanely" the problem of the former camp residents, urged the GOR to address the growing problem of detentions within Rwanda and called on the government to re-open the border with Zaire in order to permit delivery of relief supplies to the refugee camps in eastern Zaire.
- o Bizimungu defended the RPA's actions in Kibeho, disputed the death toll, and charged that armed militia had incited the violence. Bizimungu said that the "majority of Rwandans" no longer had confidence in UNAMIR's ability to provide security and stressed the importance of a functioning system of justice to ensure accountability for the genocide.

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